



# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS October, 2023

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

### ALL TREATS – NO TRICKS!

When people remark Halloween is their favorite holiday, it poses the question: why? People often answer they like the decorations, they like the weather or maybe they like seeing the trick-or-treaters in costume, or even dressing up in a costume themselves. All fun things!

Of course, costumes hide the “real person” and one thing about the CICBVI is we don’t want to hide! Our Board President will sometimes say “we are Peoria’s best kept secret” but then follow it right up with “but we don’t want to be!” He’s right! We want to be known – in the community, to our patrons, to future patrons, their families and friends. With that in mind, we have upped our marketing efforts. Thanks to the Peoria Chamber of Commerce Leadership team, we kickstarted by redesigning our brochure, learned creative and effective ways to market, improved the ability of our website to be interactive and tried to make our social media presence more friendly and personable.

The next thing we need is up to you: We need you to talk about us, share what we do and be a cheerleader for the CICBVI. Not sure what to say? The easiest thing is to remind people that if they know somebody with a visual impairment and/or if they want to support a good cause you can share our

contact information. That's it! Word of mouth is the best advertisement and we appreciate you for your willingness to support our work. We couldn't do it without you.

Now, check out the rest of this newsletter for your invitation to our White Cane Safety Day event and reserve your seat – you won't want to miss this!

### **TOP TEN THINGS AT THE WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY EVENT:**

- 10 A personal message from our Board President
- 9 Recognition and award presentation
- 8 An opportunity to bid on and win gift baskets
- 7 An exclusive message from the founders of the Two Blind Brothers website
- 6 A special display of some of the latest technology, with actual users present to demonstrate and/or answer questions
- 5 An awesome venue at the Peoria Riverfront Museum with a view of the lighting of the Murray Baker bridge in CICBVI colors of red and white
- 4 A "Blind Wine Draw" just for you!
- 3 A delicious meal catered by Barrack's Cater Inn
- 2 Social hour and entertainment by Dexter O'Neal and the Funkyard
- 1 The opportunity to have fun with your friends and support the important work of the CICBVI

RESERVE YOUR PLACE BY SCANNING THE QR CODE ON THE ENCLOSED INVITATION OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT [WWW.CICBVI.ORG](http://WWW.CICBVI.ORG)

### **IF YOU MISSED LAST MONTH YOU MISSED –**

Right after Labor Day, the Ladies' Lunch group met at Avanti's and the very next day we had a delicious patron lunch (home-cooked by Chandra Jo (patron Carol's daughter) at the Center. Unfortunately, our Wild Times Exotic animal visit had to be postponed due to an emergency, but we had a great time anyway chatting and just relaxing (and enjoying that great meal!). The good news is, Wild Times is now rescheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> and they tell me they will be bringing some very special animals for us to hold and learn about. I think there may even be a fox! So, be sure to get your reservation in right away! We had a second lunch that included a visit from representatives from OSF who gathered information from patrons present about ways they can improve their services whether at the doctor's office or in the hospital. Feedback was received that the pointers we provided them were very helpful and they thank all the patrons who were involved.

Also in September we visited the Ackerman Pumpkin Farm – if you haven't checked out our Facebook page you need to do so and you will find some fun pictures of our day.

The CICBVI was a presence in the community with patron Deanna giving a presentation about the WeWalk cane and other technology to the Peoria North Rotary and Paula B and patron Darrel H presented to a group of University of Illinois medical students about ways they can be pro-active in providing assistance to low and no vision individuals seeking medical care.

## **COMING IN OCTOBER**

First up is the patron-led Ladies' Lunch October 3 at the Original Pancake House. If you are a patron and need a ride, please call the center. If you don't need a ride, but want to attend (or have questions) please be sure to call Connie S at 309-232-9002. Please do not call our driver – they are not prepared to keep track of reservations or cancellations! Deadline for reservations is Monday, October 2. NOTE: the next Ladies' Lunch is November 7 at Woody's in Groveland.

**YOU ARE NEEDED** – as a way to “give back” we have committed to serve lunch to the Midwest Food Bank volunteers on Monday, October 9. You don't have to cook but we do need you – patrons, friends, board members, family – to help serve and clean up afterwards. This will take place at Midwest Food Bank. Please sign up to help by calling the center at 309-637-3693.

## **WILD TIMES EXOTIC ANIMALS**

are coming back October 19. This will be a simple lunch followed by their visit. This is looking to be a popular event so be sure to call your reservations in as soon as possible – deadline is Monday, October 16.

## **HALLOWEEN PARTY AT THE CENTER – October 25**

Come have dinner and play “trick-or-treat Bingo” with us! If you wear a costume you may win a prize! - Reservation deadline is Friday, October 20.

## LOOKING FOR A WAY TO HELP THE CICBVI?

Volunteer to be on a new, patron-led Social Committee. This committee will plan and execute social events for patrons and tasks may include calling sites for information or to make reservations, working with staff at events with tasks such as preparation, serving, clean-up, etc. You will need to help come up with ideas for events, entertainment, field trips, etc. as well. Call right away if you would like to help!

CALL THE CENTER AT (309) 637-3693 or e-mail [info@cicbvi.org](mailto:info@cicbvi.org)

## WHITE CANE TRAINING (includes free long white cane)

We will be having a White Cane Training Day on October 27 at 10:30 AM at the Center. If you, or someone you know, needs a new long white cane and the required training, please call in your reservation no later than October 23. This is free and open to anyone needing a cane. Training will be provided by Monica Vandeven, who is a certified Orientation & Mobility Specialist.

## DID YOU KNOW . . .

- . . . A trip to Pluto would take about 800 years
- . . . Nearly 10% of a cat's bones are in its tail
- . . . Sloths are strong swimmers, especially good at the backstroke
- . . . Your nose can detect a trillion different smells
- . . . A hummingbird nest is only about the size of a walnut

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- October 1 Happy Birthday Barbara Sierra
- October 3 Ladies' Lunch at Original Pancake House – 11:30am  
Happy Birthday Willie Howard, Jr.
- October 5 Happy Birthday Delilah Russell
- October 9 Serve Lunch at Midwest Food Bank  
Happy Birthday Earline Clark
- October 11 Food Basket pick-up
- October 12-13 Food Basket delivery
- October 15 White Cane Safety Day Event at Peoria Riverfront  
Museum – 5:45pm
- October 16 Happy Birthday Robert Rose
- October 19 Lunch at Center, featuring Wild Times Exotic Animals  
Happy Anniversary Lance & Grace Barke
- October 25 Happy Birthday Mike Ingram  
CICBVI Halloween Party – dinner at the Center
- October 27 White Cane Training at the Center – 10:30am  
Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday to the Dragon Lady!!!!
- October 29 Happy Birthday Barb Fraizer
- October 31 Happy Birthday Brandon Clark

Please remember reservations to events and for transportation need to be made by calling the Center at (309) 637-3693 – not our drivers. Our drivers only responsibility is to transport you safely.



## FREE MATTER FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

2905 W Garden St., Peoria, IL 61605

**October, 2023 Newsletter**

### **Quote for the Month**

“Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year.” - Chad Sugg

“Autumn – when the weather can go from 90 to 55 like it saw a state trooper.” - unknown